

Message Text

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S E C R E T USNATO 4555

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-82

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NPG STUDY ON COMMUNICATING NATO'S INTENTIONS TO USE
NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REF: A. NPG(STAFF GROUP) WP (74)7(2ND REVISION)

B. USNATO 3984

BEGIN SUMMARY: UK NPG STAFF GROUP REP INFORMED MISSION OFFICER
THAT LONDON IS NOT HAPPY WITH THE CURRENT DRAFT OF THE NPG STUDY
ON COMMUNICATING NATO'S INTENTIONS TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND
PLANS TO TABLE A COMPLETE RE-DRAFT IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. END SUMMARY.

1. UK NPG STAFF GROUP REP (HARFORD) CALLED ON MISSION OFFICER ON
AUGUST 22 TO DISCUSS THE NPG STUDY OF COMMUNICATING NATO'S
INTENTIONS (CNI). HARFORD SAID THAT LONDON WAS NOT HAPPY WITH
THE CURRENT DRAFT OF THE STUDY (REF A- POUCHED TO STATE AND
DEFENSE). HE SAID THAT WHILE LONDON GENERALLY AGREED WITH THE
SUBSTANTIVE POINTS IN THE DRAFT, THEY FELT THAT IT COULD BE
SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVED THROUGH REORGANIZATION AND OTHER CHANGES
DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO MAKE IT MORE INCISIVE. HE SAID THAT LONDON
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THOUGHT THAT THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY SHOULD BE MORE CAREFULLY
DEFINED, PLACING CNI INTO BROAD CONTEXT OF NATO STRATEGY AND
POLICY. HE SAID THAT LONDON WANTED TO DRAW A CLEARER DISTINCTION
BETWEEN WARNING AND EXPLANATORY ASPECTS OF CNI, AND BETWEEN

COMMUNICATIONS WITH AN ENEMY AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE NATO PUBLIC AND OTHER COUNTRIES. HE ALSO SAID THAT LONDON THOUGHT THAT THE PAPER SHOULD NOTE THE POSSIBLE DESIRABILITY OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIETS IN PEACETIME CONCERNING THE NEED TO PRESERVE COMMUNICATION LINKS IN ANY CONFLICT SITUATION. HARFORD SAID THE UK WOULD TABLE A REDRAFT OF THE CNI STUDY WHEN THE NPG STAFF GROUP TAKES UP THE SUBJECT AGAIN IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

2. MISSION OFFICER SAID THAT WASHINGTON HAD NOT YET PROVIDED COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT AND THEREFORE HE DID NOT KNOW HOW HIS AUTHORITIES

VIEWED THE STUDY. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS NO DOUBT ROOM FOR EDITORIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DRAFT AND THAT PERHAPS A REORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY COULD BE BENEFICIAL. HE SAID WE WOULD WELCOME ANY GOOD IDEAS AND WOULD REVIEW THE UK REDRAFT CAREFULLY WITH THIS IN MIND.

3. HARFORD SAID THAT LONDON THOUGHT THAT THE AGENDA FOR THE ROME NPG MEETING WAS A BIT THIN. CONSEQUENTLY, HE THOUGHT IT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO ACHIEVE A GOOD CNI STUDY THAT WOULD SERVE TO GENERATE USEFUL MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT. RUMSFELD

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